

.44a Wild Horses

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP) Paradise-Denio
Activity Wild Horses
Overlay Reference
Step 1 P-1 D-1 Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1/1A

Reserve forage for wild horses and burros in each allotment which they are presently found as identified in URA Step III.

Forage will be reserved on Herd Management Areas (HMA) and Herd Use Area (HUA). These allotments will reserve the following amounts of forage for WH/B in 1979 and have a 14% annual increase until management numbers are reached.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>AUMs Reserved</u>
Alder Creek	300
Daveytown	72
✓ Little Owyhee	13,079
✓ Bullhead	1,480
Paiute Meadows	1,038
Jackson Mountain	2,183

*Excess horse numbers will be removed immediately on those areas where forage is not available in sufficient quantity to ensure proper use. These areas are:

<u>Area</u>	<u>AUMs Available for Horse Use</u>	<u>Mgmt. Numbers</u>	<u>Horses to be Removed</u>
Little Owyhee	13,068	1,089	711
Snowstorms	1,476	123	611
Black Rock, Range East	1,032	86	226

*not # arrived
at 10:00 AM 6-7-72*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 7-1 D-1 Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.1B

MFP 1 Reserve forage for wild horses and burros on an interim basis on checkerboard lands until such time that all horses and burros are removed (See Wild Horse MFP 1). Adequate forage is not presently available for the number of horses that are on the area. Excess horse numbers will be reduced immediately on the following areas:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Numbers for Which Forage is Available on an Interim Basis</u>	<u>Horses to be Removed</u>
Eugene Mountains	97	99
Krum Hills	92	176
Slumbering Hills South	99	197
Osgood Mountains	16	16
Hot Springs Mountains	131	131
Lower Paradise Valley	18	2
Bloody Run Mountains	63	99

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Paradise-Denio
Activity	Wild Horses
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Rationale WH/B 1.1 A&B

- A) Presently there is no forage reserved for wild horses and burros within the planning units. All forage has been allocated for livestock. This situation leads to an over allocation of forage, thus range depletion. By reserving forage for the actual number of horses and burros using the area and allocating the remaining forage, in herd use areas, to cattle, there would not be an over allocation of forage.
- B) Horse numbers will be reduced to coincide with the forage that is presently available. This will prevent any overuse of the range.
- C) A 14% annual increase in herd numbers is the estimated increase using previous years' inventories.
- D) Public Law 92-195 states that wild horses are an integral part of the natural ecosystem of the public lands and should be managed as such.
- E) Public Law 95-514 further stipulates in part that if an overpopulation exists on a given area of public land the excess animals shall be removed from the range immediately.
- F) There is strong interest in allowing wild horses on public land. Interest groups such as W.H.O.A. and A.H.P.A. have especially expressed their interest in having wild horses on public lands. If horses are to be allowed on public land they must be allocated forage to prevent overgrazing.
- G) The only alternative would be complete and immediate removal of wild horses and burros on public land. This alternative is not practical.

Support

- 1) Palomino Valley gathering crew - for removal of excess horses.
- 2) Catepillar and road maintainer for road building.
- 3) Safety - of public and horse crews while gathering.
- 4) Archeology - for clearing of all trap sites.
- 5) Contracting support - for aircraft.
- 6) Public Affairs - P.R. work.
- 7) Law Enforcement - for the protection of wild horses in accordance with the law.
- 8) State Brand Inspector - to inspect horses for brands as they are gathered.
- 9) Wilderness - technical input into capture sites.

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Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

WH/B 1/1A & 1/1B

Overlay Reference

Step 1

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WH/B 1/1A and 1/1B

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Change the recommendation as follows:

1. Reserve forage for wild horses and burros in each allotment on which they are presently found as identified in URA Step III and allocate to them as identified in Range 1.1 on an interim basis until the horses are removed.
2. The allotments containing wild horses will receive an annual 14% increase in forage allocation for wild horses until they are removed. If studies indicate a change in the 14% recruitment rate that figure will be used in determining the forage allocation necessary for wild horses.
3. The Owyhee Spring Range will be designated as the Velma Johnston Herd Management Area for the exclusive use of wild horses and wildlife. The forage allocation for this area will be in accordance with Range 1.1.

Reasons

1. Wild horses have not to date received a forage allocation and subsequently the forage resources of the Resource Area are over obligated. Until wild horses and burros are gathered according to management plans, forage is required and must be recognized to achieve the estimated stocking rate.
2. Current data places the recruitment rate for wild horses at 14% annually. To maintain the forage availability with the estimated stocking rate, wild horses should receive an annual 14% increase in forage until they are removed according to management plans. This recruitment figure will be studied and changed according to population dynamics of the wild horses.
3. The Owyhee Spring Range is the most natural area for a herd management area for wild horses. (See WH/B 1.2 for specifics.)

Support:

All Specialists
Palomino Facility and Crew
Operations
Contracting
Public Affairs
Veterinarian
Nevada State Brand Inspector

MFD III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

Forage will not be allocated within the Paradise-Denio Resource Area.
Future adjustments in grazing use will be based on monitoring as called for
in the Bureau's new Rangeland Management Policy.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 P | D | Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 1.2

MFP | Designate three Herd Management Areas (HMA) for intensive management.
(See Wild Horse MFP I Overlay Paradise-Denio). These areas are as follows:

HMA #1 Little Owyhee Herd Management Area

- 1) Change the name to the Velma Johnston Herd Management Area.
- 2) Eliminate all livestock grazing on all public lands within this HMA.
- 3) Initiate exchange of use with operators that have private land within the HMA.
- 4) Allow Maximum number of wild horses for the forage presently available.
- 5) Initiate intensive studies of the horse population of this HMA which would include sex ratios, colt survival, reproductive patterns, wildlife interaction, behavior patterns, migration, emigration and immigration.
- 6) The Lake Creek Management Fences 1 and 2 would be removed as would the Fairbanks Management fence.
- 7) Develop the stipulations for horse management fences to be used as boundary fences on the HMA.
- 8) Construct boundary fences in critical locations (to be identified) to maintain the integrity of the HMA.
- 9) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels.
- 10) Develop water sources in T. 44 N. R. 43 E., T. 47 N. R. 43 E., T. 46 N. R. 45 E., T. 45 N. R. 45 E.
- 11) Develop a Herd Management Plan for this HMA.
- 12) Allow horse numbers to increase as the amount of forage increases.

<u>HMA</u>	<u>Present Estimated Numbers</u>	<u>Management Numbers</u>
Velma Johnston Herd Use Area	1800*	1089

*Present numbers projected from 1977 inventory using 14% survival rate.

Handwritten note: 10000 N. 10000 E. 10000 W. 10000 S. 10000 N. 10000 E. 10000 W. 10000 S.

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Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 D-1 Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 1.2 (con't)

HMA #2 Jackson Mountain Herd Use Area

- 1) Eliminate all livestock grazing on all public lands within this HMA.
- 2) Initiate exchange of use with operators that have private land within the HMA.
- 3) Allow maximum number of wild horses for the forage presently available.
- 4) Initiate intensive studies of the horse population of this HMA which would include sex ratios, colt survival, reproductive patterns, behavior patterns, wildlife interaction, migration, emigration and immigration.
- 5) Complete removal of the following fences:
 - a) Desert Valley Fence
 - b) Buff Peak Division Fence
 - c) Jule Delong-Happy Creek Fence
 - d) Deer Creek Division Fence
 - e) Delong-Capelli Drift Fence
 - f) Deer Creek Seasonal Fence
 - g) McKernan Boundary Fence
- 6) Develop the stipulations for horse management fences for boundary fences on the HMA.
- 7) Construct boundary fences in critical locations (to be identified).
- 8) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels.
- 9) Develop water sources in T. 37 N. R. 31 E., T. 36 N. R. 31 E.
- 10) Develop a Herd Management Plan for this HMA.
- 11) Allow horse numbers to increase as the amount of forage increases.

<u>HMA</u>	<u>Present Estimated Numbers</u>	<u>Management Numbers</u>
Jackson Mountain Use Area	162*	183

*Present numbers projected from 1977 inventory using 14% survival rate.

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Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 D-1

Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 1.2 (con't)

HMA #3 Black Rock Range East Herd Management Area

- 1) Eliminate all livestock grazing on all public lands within this HMA.
- 2) Initiate exchange of use with operators that have private land within the HMA.
- 3) Allow maximum number of wild horses for the forage presently available.
- 4) Initiate intensive studies of the horse population of this HMA which would include sex ratios, colt survival, reproductive patterns, behavior patterns, wildlife interaction, migration, emigration and immigration.
- 5) Complete removal of the Paiute Seeding Fence.
- 6) Develop stipulations for horse management fences for boundary fences on the HMA.
- 7) Construct boundary fences in critical locations to be identified to maintain the integrity of the HMA.
- 8) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels.
- 9) Develop a Herd Management Plan for this HMA.
- 10) Allow horse numbers to increase as the amount of forage increases.

<u>HMA</u>	<u>Present Estimated Numbers</u>	<u>Management Numbers</u>
Black Rock Range East Herd Management Area	312	86

Rationale

- A) ⁴³CFR 4730.5 states in part that "the authorized offices may designate and maintain specifically designated ranges principally for the protection and preservation of wild free-roaming horses and burros".
- B) There is direct competition for forage between wild horses and cattle, thus the elimination of cattle would ensure adequate forage for horses within the area.
- C) An exchange of use for private lands would also ensure the proper use of the HMA. Exchange of use would be the most viable alternative to reduce the influence of domestic livestock within the HMA without fencing.

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Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

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Rationale WH/B 1.2 (con't)

- D) Maximum numbers within these HMA's would ensure a continuation of viable wild horse populations within the areas. There would also be a more diverse gene pool to ensure the continuation of wild horses within the HMA.
- E) Data on wild horses and burros in this district is sorely lacking. Studies of this type are vital if proper management of wild horses are expected. Public Law 95-514 states that the Secretary will initiate studies of the wild horse and burro populations.
- F) Fences within a HMA are in direct conflict with proper management of wild horse and burros. The fences will curtail horse movement within the HMA and may adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- G) To ensure the integrity of the HMA's boundary fences must be developed and installed in critical areas (to be identified). These fences would keep livestock intrusion into the HMA to a minimum. They would also keep the horses within the HMA. Design of a horse management fence should be made with these criteria in mind.
- H) Wild horses will in time exceed the grazing capacity of all HMA's because of the 14% annual increase. A regular program of gathering horses will guarantee proper use of the range within the HMA.
- I) Water sources are not readily available in these specified areas. Water availability is critical to the survival of an isolated herd. Therefore water should be developed where it is known to be limited.
- J) ⁴²CFR 4730.6 states in part that "the authorized office shall in connection with the designation of a specific range, develop a proposed wild free-roaming horse or burro management plan designed to protect, manage and control wild free-roaming horses and burros on the area on a continuing basis".
- K) If an increase in forage becomes available through management, horses should be able to increase naturally to use available forage. This will ensure herd viability and the continuity of the HMA.
- L) It has been a request by W.H.O.A. that the Little Owyhee Use Area should be renamed in honor of Velma Johnston. Public opinion seems to agree.

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Rationale WH/B 1.2 (con't)

- M) HMAs are complimentary with the idea of having wild and free-roaming horses on public lands. These horses would be harassed less than now and they would be in better shape and show greater vigor. These areas are large enough where the lack of space would not be a problem.
- N) These areas were selected from all horse use areas because of the number of horses using the area, the viability of the herd using the area, the location of area, public interest shown for developing the HMA.
- O) Ranches within these areas will be drastically affected by these HMAs. Most operations will not be operational if the cattle numbers are eliminated.

Support

Range - to work with operator in exchange of use.

Nevada State Office - to coordinate with State wild horse specialists for technical input on studies needed.

Engineering - to remove fences and design and construction and maintenance of boundary fences.

Palomino Valley Gathering Crew - for removal of recruitment numbers.

Engineering - to design and develop water sources.

Range - supply input on range condition to properly evaluate horse numbers within the HMA.

Archeology - for clearing of all trap sites.

Rehabilitation - of lands if necessary.

State (Board) Inspector - inspect wild horse captures for brands.

Law Enforcement - protection of horses in accordance with the law.

Public Affairs - P.R. work.

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Activity

WH & B 1.2

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.2

Multiple Use Analysis

Conflicts

Cultural Resources 1.7 Designate all S1 and S2 sites as ACECs.

Lands 6.1 Designate utility right-of-way corridors.

Minerals 1.1 Make no land use decisions that would interfere with mineral development.

Range 1.2 Remove all wild horses and burros from all allotments by 1984.

Range 2 Increase existing allocatable livestock forage by artificial methods.

Watershed 3.3 Eliminate all surface disturbing activities from areas having a deteriorating erosion trend, in critical or severe erosion condition, having a high erosion susceptibility or high vegetal soil factor.

Watershed 4.1 Prevent any surface disturbing action which would result in the destruction of existing populations for any Federally or State listed endangered, threatened or sensitive plant. Designate areas of occurrence as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.1 Designate all crucial wildlife use areas as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.3 Improve the condition of aspen habitats for wildlife.

Wildlife 1.4 Improve the condition of mountain browse habitat for mule deer and antelope.

Wildlife 1.5 Improve the condition of meadow and riparian habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife 1.8 Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas (Black Rock, Jackson Mountains).

Wildlife 1.11 Protect crucial wildlife use areas.

Wildlife 1.16 Fence Button Lake to three-wire antelope fence standards to exclude wild horses and livestock use.

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WH/B 1.2

Overlay Reference

Step 1

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WH/B 1.2 (continued)

Wildlife 1.20 Restrict new road or trail construction on potential California bighorn sheep range to minimize access (Black Rock and Jackson Mountains).

Wildlife 1.21 Maintain and improve habitat for sensitive, protected, threatened and endangered species (Bighorn Sheep).

Wildlife Aquatic 1.1 Designate all riparian/stream areas as ACECs.

Recreation 4.1 Provide Visual Resource Management for their respective classes.

Recreation 6.3 Designate the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River and all riparian areas as ACECs.

Wilderness 1.4 Identify activities that jeopardize wilderness suitability.

The recommendation has numerous conflicts but is consistent with Bureau policy.

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

MFP II

1. Reject the Black Rock Range and the Jackson Mountains as an HMA.

1. The Black Rock and Jackson Mountains have been identified by the Nevada Department of Wildlife for reintroduction of California Bighorn Sheep. Bighorn sheep and wild horses may not be in direct competition for forage but to manage the wild horses gatherings will be required every so many years and this would involve the use of helicopters, other motor vehicles, capture facilities and the presence of man which does create a serious conflict to bighorn sheep. These two areas are also under consideration for wilderness and are wilderness study units. Wilderness creates a serious conflict for proper management of wild horses with its restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and developing facilities within its boundaries.

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Activity

WH/B 1.2

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.2 (continued)

Multiple Use Recommendations

2. Designate the Owyhee (Spring Range) as the Velma Johnston Herd Management Area for the exclusive use of wild horses and wildlife.

Reasons

2. This area consists of 398,000 acres of public land and 16,560 acres of private land ranging from about 5300' to over 6000 feet in elevation. This area presently contains 46% of the wild horses (1143) in the Paradise-Denio Resource Area on public lands. This area would offer many management opportunities for wild horses as it is the largest, most contiguous parcel of public land with the fewest conflicts. By managing horse numbers the vegetative resources may also be managed to maintain its vigor. This would help to provide sufficient nutritious forage for both wild horses and wildlife species. Periodic gatherings would be required to maintain horse numbers in balance with the stocking rate. This area would also allow various studies to be conducted on recruitment rates, sex ratios, reproductive behavior, mortality, colt crops, foaling seasons, migration patterns, behavioral patterns, interaction between horses and wildlife, individual horse identification, preferred forage species and trend, utilization, trend, and condition.

3. Close the Owyhee (Spring Range) to livestock grazing.

4. Prepare a Herd Management Plan.

WHB 1.2

Support:

All Specialists
Horse Gathering Crew and Facilities

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

Documented public comment from the wild horse groups says that it never was their intention to completely remove livestock from wild horse management areas. The removal of livestock from these ranges would have an adverse economic impact on the livestock operators and is not consistent with present Bureau policy.

Paradise-Denio MFP III
Wild Horses and Burros 1.1

As Currently Written:

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM - NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria:

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Paradise-Denio Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	
Owyhee-Bullhead	250/0	CRMP Numbers
Jackson Mountains	215/0	Existing Numbers
McGee Mountain	0/41	Existing Numbers
Black Rock Range East	59/0	Existing Numbers

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Owyhee-Bullhead	Little Owyhee	200/0
	Bullhead	-50/0
Jackson Mountains	Jackson Mountains	160/0
	Deer Creek	20/0
	Happy Creek	35/0
McGee Mountains	Alder Creek	0/41
Black Rock Range East	Paiute Meadows	59/0

A. MFP-III Decision WH&B 1.5

Acquire sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication, or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock, and recreation.

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision has not, and will not, be implemented until resolution of the water right policy affecting the State of Nevada.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Implement the decision when authorized.
2. Continue to gather and prepare preliminary survey and design information for plans and projects that would benefit wild horses and burros, and their habitat.

Prepared by:

Dick Wheeler
WH&B Specialist

6-1-88
Date

Concurred:

Shirley L. Madsen
Environmental Coordinator

June 88
Date

Approved:

John Billing
Paradise-Reno
Area Manager

6-6-88
Date

A. MFP III Decision WH&B 2.1

Attempt to establish a wild horse viewing area on Winnemucca Mountain. Work out details such as water needs, fencing, and cooperative agreements through CRMP. (Note: The area involved is checkerboard lands where the landowners have requested wild horse removal, therefore this decision must be thoroughly coordinated).

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision was fully implemented. An attempt was made through the CRMP process to leave 40-50 wild horses in the vicinity of Winnemucca Mountain.

The CRMP plan was not finalized and because the area is checkerboard lands, all of the wild horses were subsequently removed.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Retain the HA boundary for possible future administrative actions that would permit a wild horse viewing area.

Prepared by:

Dick Wheeler
WH&B Specialist

6-1-88
Date

Concurred:

Donald L. Smith
Environmental Coordinator

2 June 88
Date

Approved:

Scott Bellamy
Paradise-Denio Area Manager

6-6-88
Date

A. MFP-III Decision WH&B 2.2

License domestic horses and burros only in those areas where such domestic animals would not be expected to mix with populations of wild horses and/or burros.

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision has been fully implemented.

Requests to license domestic horses or burros in allotments which contain wild horses/burros have been denied.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Continue to deny requests where applicable.
2. Review requests to license domestic horses or burros for those HA's, or adjoining areas, which no longer contain wild horses or burros, and where the approval of such request would not violate the intent of the decision.

Prepared by:

Dick Wheeler
WH&B Specialist

6-1-88
Date

Concurred:

Gerald L. Ford
Environmental Coordinator

2 June 88
Date

Approved:

Scott Billings
Paradise Denio Area Manager

6-6-88
Date

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WH/B 1.3

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WH/B 1.3

Multiple Use Analysis

Conflicts

Cultural Resources 1.7 Designate all S1 and S2 sites as ACECs.

Minerals 1.1 Make no land use decisions that would interfere with mineral development.

Range 1.2 Remove all wild horses and burros from all allotments by 1984.

Watershed 3.3 Eliminate all surface disturbing activities from areas having a deteriorating erosion trend, in critical or severe erosion condition, having a high erosion susceptibility or high vegetal soil factor.

Watershed 4.1 Prevent any surface disturbing action which would result in the destruction of existing populations for any Federally or State listed endangered, threatened or sensitive plant. Designate such areas as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.1 Designate all crucial wildlife use areas as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.3 Improve the condition of aspen habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife 1.4 Improve the condition of mountain browse habitat for mule deer and antelope.

Wildlife 1.5 Improve the condition of meadow and riparin habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife 1.8 Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas (Snowstorms).

Wildlife 1.11 Protect crucial wildlife use areas.

Wildlife 1.14 Establish and fence water catchment units to provide free water for wildlife species (McGee Mountain).

Wildlife 1.20 Restrict new road or trail construction on potential California bighorn sheep range to minimize access (Snowstorms).

Wildlife 1.27 Fence Lyles Spring in the Montana Mountains and one unnamed spring in the Slumbering Hills by 1984.

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Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 P-1 D-1 Step 3

MFP 1

Recommendation WH/B 1.3

Establish Herd Use Areas in three areas for extensive management of wild horses and burros (See Wild Horse MFP I Overlay Paradise-Denio).

Herd Use Area #1 Snowstorm Mountains Herd Use Area

- 1) Numbers for this Horse Use Area would be allowed to build to the 1971 levels if forage is available.
- 2) Domestic livestock use should fluctuate so that, in combination with horse numbers, carrying capacity is not exceeded.
- 3) Extensive management would consist of population regulation and inventory.
- 4) Livestock water would be made available to wild horses and burros on a yearlong basis.
- 5) The Snowstorm Fire Rehab. Area would be made available to horses when they would normally be using that area.
- 6) No further fencing will be constructed within the herd use area.
- 7) Horses will not be moved with cattle in any grazing rotation system.
- 8) Horses would be reduced to the number that the present herd use area can accommodate.
- 9) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain management numbers.

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Estimated Present Numbers</u>	<u>Management Numbers</u>
Snowstorm Mountains	734*	123

*Numbers projected from 1977 inventory using 14% survival rate.

Rationale

- A) The Snowstorm Mountain Herd Use Area has a viable herd of horses but has a large amount of private land within its boundary. If this land was to be fenced, this would virtually cut the area in half and make intensive management difficult, therefore it is not a good candidate for an HMA.
- B) Horse and burro numbers will fluctuate over time. To prevent over-grazing of the range domestic livestock number will have to be adjusted to suit the carrying capacity. Livestock numbers are easier to control than are horse numbers.

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Rationale WH/B 1.3 (con't)

- C) Only inventory and gathering are needed within these areas. The amount of outside influences (i.e. grazing) would be large enough that they would have a bias effect on studies attempted within the area.
- D) Water availability is critical for the survival of wild horses and burros. If water is available in several areas, utilization will be more uniform.
- E) The rehab area would provide good forage to horses when they would normally be in the area.
- F) Fencing within the area would limit the range of wild horses and burros and possibly adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- G) It would be virtually impossible to have wild animals within a grazing system. The horses or burros would have to be herded into the use pastures and fence construction have to be such that the horses or burros would not break through. These two points above make a grazing system unfeasible.
- H) Reduction of herd numbers would ensure that the herd that remained was vigorous and that adequate forage would be available.
- I) Gatherings would be necessary to keep horse numbers within the carrying capacity. If no gatherings were conducted horse numbers would increase and an overpopulation would soon exist.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (NFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 P-1 Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 1.3 (con't)

Herd Use Area #2 Slumbering Hills North Herd Use Area

- 1) Numbers for this area would remain as they presently are found.
- 2) This herd would be allowed increase unchecked for 3 years to determine if the herd is viable.
- 3) Domestic livestock numbers should fluctuate so that in combination with horse numbers the carrying capacity is not exceeded.
- 4) Extensive management would consist of population regulation and inventory for herd number stabilization.
- 5) Livestock water would be made available to wild horses and burros on a yearlong basis.
- 6) No further fencing would be allowed within the HUA.
- 7) Horses would be allowed to increase to management levels.
- 8) As horses reach management levels, gatherings will be conducted at intervals that will maintain management numbers.
- 9) Horses will not be moved with cattle in any grazing rotation system.

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Estimated Present Numbers</u>	<u>Management Numbers</u>
Slumbering Hills	7*	146

*Present numbers projected from 1977 inventory using 14% survival rate.

Rationale

- A) There is a question of the viability of the herd that uses the Slumbering Hills North Herd Use Area. There is an estimated number of seven head that use the area. The viability of the herd will be checked by close inventory after three years of growth.
- B) There are only 7 horses presently on the area; if this is a viable herd it would be allowed to grow; if the herd is not viable no further management is needed.
- C) Horse numbers will fluctuate over time. To prevent overgrazing of the range domestic livestock number will have to be adjusted to suit the carrying capacity. Livestock number are easier to control than are horse numbers.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Rationale WH/B 1.3 (con't)

- D) Only inventory and gathering are needed within these areas. The amount of outside influences (i.e. grazing) would be large enough that they would have a bias effect on studies within the area.
- E) Water availability is critical for the survival of wild horses and burros. If water is available in several areas utilization is more uniform.
- F) Fencing within the area would limit the range of wild horses and burros and possibly adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- G) Increase of horses to management levels would guarantee viable and vigorous horses within the areas. If horses only increase to management levels and cattle numbers are controlled there would be no adverse impact to the range resources.
- I) It would be virtually impossible to have wild animals within a grazing system. The burros or horses would have to be herded into the use pastures and fence construction have to be such that the horses or burros would not break through. These two points alone make a grazing system unfeasible.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 D-1 Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 1.3 (con't)

Herd Use Area #3 McGee Mountain Herd Use Area

- 1) Numbers for this Herd Use Area would remain as they are presently found.
- 2) An intensive inventory would be conducted to determine the exact number of burros using the area and their seasonal distribution.
- 3) Domestic livestock numbers would then be calculated to bring utilization to carrying capacity. These numbers would fluctuate to maintain livestock and burro use within carrying capacity.
- 4) Extensive management would consist of population regulation and inventory.
- 5) Livestock water would remain available to wild burros throughout the year.
- 6) No further fencing would be allowed within the Herd Use Area.
- 7) If a viable herd of burros can exist within the Herd Use Area, their numbers can increase to 323 animals or equal to the forage available to them.
- 8) Burros will not be moved with cattle in any grazing rotation system.
- 9) Gatherings will be conducted to prevent overgrazing of the range.

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Estimated Present Numbers</u>	<u>Management Numbers</u>
McGee Mountain	50 burros	50 burros

Rationale

- A) Herd Use Area was established in this area because it was not suitable for HMA's. There was question of the viability of herd of burros that seasonally use the McGee Mountain Use Area. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completes the fence on the east side of the Sheldon Antelope Range this may eliminate the burros that use this area.
- B) Presently the exact number of burros that use the area is not known. The Fish and Wildlife Service will complete construction of a boundary fence that will limit the range of the burros. The burros remaining on the HUA will then be the management numbers.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Rationale WH/B 1.3 (con't)

- C) Burro numbers will fluctuate over time. To prevent overgrazing of the range domestic livestock number will have to be adjusted to suit the carrying capacity. Livestock number are easier to control than are burro numbers.
- D) Only inventory and gathering are needed within these areas. The amount of outside influences (i.e. grazing) would be large enough that they would have a bias effect on studies within the area.
- E) Water availability is critical for the survival of wild horses and burros. If water is available in several areas utilization is more uniform.
- F) Fencing within the area would limit the range of wild horses and burros and possibly adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- G) Forage presently available to wild burros is enough to allow their numbers to increase to 323 animals if cattle numbers are controlled.
- H) It would be virtually impossible to have wild animals within a grazing system. The burros or horses would have to be herded into the use pastures and fence construction have to be such that the horses or burros would not break through. These two points alone make a grazing system unfeasible.
- I) Reduction of herd numbers would ensure that the herd that remained was vigorous and that adequate forage would be available. Gatherings would be necessary to keep horse numbers within the carrying capacity. If no gatherings were conducted horse number would increase and an overpopulation would soon exist.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Support WH/B 1.3 (con't)

Palomino Valley Gathering Crew - for removal of horses and burros.
Range - to ensure carrying capacity is not exceeded.
Engineering - to develop roads if needed to remove captured animals.
Archeology - to clear areas identified as trap sites.
Safety - for horse gathering and public safety.
Rehabilitation - of lands if necessary.
State Brand Inspector - inspection of captured horses.
Public Affairs - P.R. work.
Law Enforcement - protection of horses in accordance with the law.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

WH/R 1.3

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.3

Multiple Use Analysis

Conflicts

Cultural Resources 1.7 Designate all S1 and S2 sites as ACECs.

Minerals 1.1 Make no land use decisions that would interfere with mineral development.

Range 1.2 Remove all wild horses and burros from all allotments by 1984.

Watershed 3.3 Eliminate all surface disturbing activities from areas having a deteriorating erosion trend, in critical or severe erosion condition, having a high erosion susceptibility or high vegetal soil factor.

Watershed 4.1 Prevent any surface disturbing action which would result in the destruction of existing populations for any Federally or State listed endangered, threatened or sensitive plant. Designate such areas as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.1 Designate all crucial wildlife use areas as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.3 Improve the condition of aspen habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife 1.4 Improve the condition of mountain browse habitat for mule deer and antelope.

Wildlife 1.5 Improve the condition of meadow and riparian habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife 1.8 Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas (Snowstorms).

Wildlife 1.11 Protect crucial wildlife use areas.

Wildlife 1.14 Establish and fence water catchment units to provide free water for wildlife species (McGee Mountain).

Wildlife 1.20 Restrict new road or trail construction on potential California bighorn sheep range to minimize access (Snowstorms).

Wildlife 1.27 Fence Lybo Spring in the Montana Mountains and one unnamed spring in the Slumbering Hills by 1984.

WHB 1.3 (Continued)

Multiple Use Recommendation

Drop the recommendation.

Rationale

1. About 15% of the Snowstorm area is in private ownership and the owner has requested the wild horses to be removed under 43 CFR 4750.3.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife has identified the Snowstorm Mountains as an area for the reintroduction of California bighorn sheep. Wild horses and bighorn sheep may not be competitive for forage but periodic gatherings will be required to balance the wild horses with the stocking rate and this requires helicopters, motor vehicles, and men which creates a serious conflict with bighorn sheep.

Management of the various resources is not feasible in horse use areas. Grazing systems are designed for livestock to use the range at certain seasons-of-use and to provide rest and seedling establishment of the vegetative resources, it is not practical to herd wild horses to follow a grazing system.

2. It is doubtful that seven head of horses in the Slumbering Hills could be considered a viable population or that these animals were present in the immediate locale at the time of the passage of the 1971 Act.
3. The Fish and Wildlife Service are in the process of fencing their boundary along McGee Mountain and it is likely the fencing would be completed in the summer. If this is the case the burros would be fenced in the Sheldon Refuge as it is their summer range. If they were fenced out of the Sheldon Refuge, a large portion of their habitat or range would be removed and any area they moved to would be different from that at the passage of the 1971 Act.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Manage and protect wild horses and burros in herd use areas where wild horses and burros occurred on December 15, 1971, on noncheckerboard lands of the resource area, and on checkerboard lands where cooperative agreements can be obtained. Management of these areas will be coordinated with all activities preferably through the CRMP process.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 P- / D- / Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 1.4

MFP I

Remove all wild horses and burros from the following areas in a three-year time period:

- 1) Eugene Mountains
- 2) Krum Hills
- 3) Slumbering Hills South
- 4) Osgood Mountains
- 5) Hot Springs Mountains
- 6) Lower Paradise Valley
- 7) Bloody Run Mountains

(See Wild Horse MFP I Overlay)

Horse Use Areas

Estimated Numbers to be Removed in 1979

Eugene Mountains	196*
Krum Hills	268
Slumbering Hills South	296
Osgood Mountains	162
Hot Springs Mountains	131
Lower Paradise Valley	20
Bloody Run Mountains	162

*Horses and burros

Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory assuming a 14% survival rate.

Rationale

- A) Under CFR 4750.3 the authorized officer is directed to remove wild horses from private lands at the owner's request. The areas for horse removal are in an area where every other section is private land. Landowners have requested removal of wild horses from their private lands. Management of horses within an area of checkerboard land pattern is not feasible.
- B) Not all allotments involved are completely checkerboard land pattern, thus to ensure that no horses will range onto private lands, complete removal is necessary.
- C) Horses will continue to increase at an annual rate of 14%. A three-year time frame would be used to ensure that all horses were removed.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Support WH/B 1.4 (con't)

Palomino Valley Gathering Crew - for removal of excess horses.

Access - obtain access to the gathering areas.

Archeology - clearing of trap sites.

Nevada State Office - supply technical input.

Nevada Law Enforcement Officials - protection of gathering crew and enforcement of the law.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -
NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria:

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Paradise-Denio Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	
Owyhee-Bullhead	250/0	CRMP Numbers
Jackson Mountains	215/0	Existing Numbers
McGee Mountain	0/41	Existing Numbers
Black Rock Range East	59/0	Existing Numbers

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Owyhee-Bullhead	Little Owyhee	200/0
	Bullhead	50/0
Jackson Mountains	Jackson Mountains	160/0
	Deer Creek	20/0
	Happy Creek	35/0
McGee Mountains	Alder Creek	0/41
Black Rock Range East	Paiute Meadows	59/0

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Remove all wild horses and burros from the following areas in a three-year time period:

- 1) Eugene Mountains
- 2) Krum Hills
- 3) Slumbering Hills South
- 4) Osgood Mountains
- 5) Hot Springs Mountains
- 6) Lower Paradise Valley
- 7) Bloody Run Mountains
- 8) Snowstorm Mountains
- 9) Jackson Mountains
- 10) Black Rock Range
- 11) Slumbering Hills North
- 12) McGee Mountain

(See Wild Horse MFP I Overlay)

<u>Horse Use Areas</u>	<u>Est. Numbers to be Removed in 1979</u>
Eugene Mountains	196*
Krum Hills	268
Slumbering Hills South	296
Osgood Mountains	166
Hot Springs Mountains	131
Lower Paradise Valley	20
Bloody Run Mountains	162
Snowstorm Mountains	354
Jackson Mountains	143
Black Rock Range	335
Slumbering Hills North	155
McGee Mountain	41

*Horses and burros

Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory assuming a 14% survival rate.

Rationale

The areas identified in MFP I are the checkerboard lands in the Resource Area and the owners of those private lands have requested in writing that the wild horses be removed under 43 CFR 4750.3.

The Jackson Mountains, Snowstorm Mountains, and Black Rock Range have been identified by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as reintroduction sites for California bighorn sheep. Wild horses and bighorn sheep may not compete for forage but periodic roundups are required for the horses to maintain their numbers with the stocking rate. These roundups require the use of helicopters and motorized vehicles and men of this creates a serious conflict with bighorn sheep.

Paradise-Denio MFP III
Wild Horses and Burros 1.4

As Currently Written:

Remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs) unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner.

<u>Horse Use Areas</u>	<u>Est. Numbers to be Removed</u>
Eugene Mountains	196*
Krum Hills	268
Slumbering Hills South	296
Osgood Mountains	166
Hot Springs Mountains	131
Lower Paradise Valley	20
Bloody Run Mountains	162

* Horses and burros

Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory assuming a 14% survival rate.

Change To:

Remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs) unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner.

<u>Herd Use Areas</u>	<u>Present Est. Numbers* of Horses & Burros To Be Removed</u>
Eugene Mountains	114
Krum Hills	194
Slumbering Hills South	122
Osgood Mountains	33
Hot Springs Mountains	79
Lower Paradise Valley	20
TOTAL	562

* Present numbers estimated from 1980 inventory assuming a 14% net increase per year.

Estimated numbers have been updated to reflect recent inventory and roundup data.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Remove wild horses and burros from the following checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs) unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner.

Horse Use AreasEst. Numbers to be Removed

Eugene Mountains	196*
Krum Hills	268
Slumbering Hills South	296
Osgood Mountains	166
Hot Springs Mountains	131
Lower Paradise Valley	20
Bloody Run Mountains	162

* Horses and burros

Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory assuming a 14% survival rate.

Rationale:

The HUAs designated for complete horse/burro removal are in a checkerboard land pattern. Landowners from each HUA have requested removal of wild horses/burros from their private lands. Section 4 of P.L. 92-195 directs the authorized officer to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

MFP | Recommendation WH/B L5

Make all water that is presently found on public land available for wild horse and burro use within herd management areas and checkerboard areas. All waters that are available to horse or cattle in herd use areas will remain available yearlong for horse use.

Develop a water distribution system that is suited for horse use. All new water developments within HMAs or HUAs will be required to use this system.

Rationale

- A) Wild horses and burros require free water to sustain themselves.
- B) Water should be available within all areas of a horse range to ensure proper distribution, and prevent horse concentration, thus overuse.
- C) A system should be developed to supply clean water to wild horses and burros.
- D) Present systems are not applicable to horse use as horses will destroy above ground structures when water is not readily available.
- E) The system should be designed to allow a minimum amount of siltation to occur.
- F) All waters on public lands will be appropriated according to procedures as established by the State of Nevada or appropriate Bureau or Department directives.

Support

Engineering - design, development, installation and maintenance of horse watering systems where identified.

Archeology - to clear water development sites.

Solicitor - to obtain legal access to water on public lands.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Develop, make waters available and obtain water rights for wild horses in the Velma Johnston Herd Management Area on a year round basis. As an interim measure all waters will be made available on public lands in the Resource Area until horses can be gathered according to management plans.

Rationale

Adequate water is necessary to maintain a viable wild horse population and to avoid undue stress to their numbers. Until gathering and management plans are prepared and gathering operations are initiated, water must be available on all public lands in the Resource Area to meet wild horse requirements.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Design and develop a water distribution system that is for wild horse and wildlife use.

No water development will be funded, authorized or constructed on public lands until a water right is acquired.

Rationale

A design is needed for water developments in the Velma Johnston Herd Management Area that is functional for both wildlife and horses and yet able to withstand the pressure exerted by horse populations while watering.

Support

Engineering/Operations - design, development and installation of horse watering systems and their maintenance.

Archeology - to clear water sites

Water Filings

Wildlife Specialist - see that horse watering system design is compatible with wildlife.

Multiple Use Analysis

Complement

Watershed 2.1 Appropriate sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication or purchases processes as provided by State Water Law to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock and recreation.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Acquire sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication, or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock, and recreation.

Rationale

Water is an integral and necessary part of all resource activity requirements.

The legal right to water must be pursued in order to gain legal title to the needed quantities.

Demands upon existing waters on public lands will increase. The Bureau must insure that needed quantities of acquired by appropriation, purchase, or by other appropriate direction.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)
Paradise-Denio
Activity
Wild Horses
Objective Number
WH/B - 2

Objective:

Maintain wild horses on public lands within a designated wild horse viewing area.

Rationale:

Interest in wild horses and burros has increased substantially in recent years. Generally people travelling the area do not realize that most horses seen are wild.

There are no specified viewing areas within the district or educational facilities for the general public.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1 P-1 D-1 Step 3

MFP I Recommendation WH/B 2.1

Establish a horse viewing area in the Bloody Run-Krum Hills Complex. (See Wild Horse MFP I Overlay). The viewing area consists of approximately 30,000 acres around the Winnemucca Area. The area would be completely fenced around the boundary. All livestock grazing would be eliminated from the viewing area. The size of the herd in the area would be limited by the amount of forage available. Two areas would be designated for information centers. There would be regular gathering to keep horse numbers at a proper level.

Rationale

- A) Public interest in wild horses and burros has increased substantially in the past few years. As interest increases, an effort must be made to properly inform the public of the existing situation. A viewing area with information centers would start this process. The area involved would be in close proximity of a population center and within a short distance from a major travelled interstate highway.
- B) The viewing area should be strictly for horse use for ease of management. The gatherings planned would keep a viable herd vigorous and healthy.
- C) This area would not be classified as an HMA because the area the horses would be confined to is relatively small, numbers would be drastically affected, intrusions would be constant and a feeling of a completely natural surrounding would be nearly impossible to attain.
- D) The viewing area is dependent on the land exchange proposed.
- E) A horse viewing area would give the public a firsthand chance to observe wild horses in an area with easy access. The public would be informed on the activity of wild horses and a higher level of understanding about wild horses would be obtained.

Support

Lands - work through Lands portion of the resource staff to initiate a land exchange for private lands within the proposed viewing area.
Recreation - technical input into developing the viewing area.
Engineering - to develop, maintain, and install the boundary fence.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Support WH/B 2.1 (con't)

Range - evaluate range condition to properly evaluate horse use.
Signing - roads and information centers.
Nevada State Office - technical input into developing the viewing area.
Law Enforcement - protection of wild horses in accordance with the law.
Protection - fire, surface disturbance, facility protection.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
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Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

WH/B 2.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 2.1

MULTI-USE ANALYSIS
Complement

Recreation 2.3 Establish wild horse viewing areas on the Velma Johnston Horse Management Area (Owyhee Desert).

Conflict

Cultural Resources 1.7 Designate all S1 and S2 sites as ACECs.

Lands 6.1 Designate utility right-of-way corridors

Minerals 1.1 Make no land use decisions that would interfere with mineral development.

Minerals 6.1 Make no land use decisions that would interfere with geothermal development.

Range 1.2 Remove all wild horses and burros from all allotments by 1984.

Wild Horses and Burros 1.4 Remove all wild horses from the Bloody Run and Krum Hills (other areas also identified).

Watershed 3.3 Eliminate all surface disturbing activities from areas having a deteriorating erosion trend, in critical or severe erosion condition, having a high erosion susceptibility or high vegetal soil factor.

Watershed 4.1 Prevent any surface disturbing action which would result in the destruction of existing populations for any Federally or State listed endangered, threatened or sensitive plant. Designate areas of occurrence as ACECs.

Wildlife 1.14 Establish and fence water catchment units to provide free water for wildlife species (Winnemucca Mountain).

Wildlife Aquatic 1.1 Designate all riparian/stream areas as ACECs.

Recreation 6.3 Designate all riparian areas as ACECs.

A wild horse viewing area or areas would provide the public with the opportunity to view these animals, be more informed on the activity of wild horses and help to obtain a higher level of understanding.

MFP II

WHB 2.1

Multiple Use Recommendation

Establish wild horse viewing areas, according to management plans, in the Velma Johnston Herd Management Area (Owyhee Spring Range).

Rationale

By providing viewing areas with good access and informational signing, the public is provided an opportunity to see wild horses in the wild. Information signing coupled with observing the wild horses would help to initiate a higher level of understanding on wild horses, the range and management problems and opportunities.

Support

Operations

Recreation Specialist - informational/interpretative signing

Lands - road easements

Public Affairs

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Attempt to establish a wild horse viewing area on Winnemucca Mountain. Work out details such as water needs, fencing, and cooperative agreements through CRMP. (Note: The area involved is checkerboard lands where the landowners have requested wild horse removal, therefore this decision must be thoroughly coordinated.)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Paradise-Denio

Activity

Wild Horses

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Recommendation WH/B 2.2

MFR | Restrict the licensing of any domestic horses or burros within the planning units.

Rationale

Management of wild horses and burros would be facilitated by not allowing any domestic horse use within the planning units. Identification of horses on the range would be simplified as would the management of problem animals when encountered.

MFP II

WHB 2.2

Multiple Use Recommendation

Do not license domestic horese in allotments which contain wild horses. This will e an interim management action until wild horses are captured and removed according to management plans.

Rationale

Management of wild horses would be facilitated by not alilowing domestic horse use in allotments or adjoining allotments that have wild horses present. Horses can break down or through fences, gates are left open, and problems are created for the domestic horse owners as well as to management of wild horses.

Support

Range

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

License domestic horses and burros only in those areas where such domestic animals would not be expected to mix with populations of wild horses and/or burros.

Rationale

Management of wild horses and burros would be facilitated by not allowing domestic horse or burro use in areas where mixes are likely to occur.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Paradise-Denio
Activity	Wild Horses
Objective Number	WH/B - 1

Objective

Maintain wild horses and burros on public lands, where there was wild horse or burro use as of December 15, 1971, and maintain a natural ecological balance on the public lands.

Rationale

Public Law 92-195 places the management of wild horses and burros under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Interior.

As of 1977 there were approximately 3800 horses within the Paradise-Denio planning units. The 1977 inventory is the most recent count. This number does not include the amount of increase that has occurred from that time.

From the best information that can be obtained from previous inventories an assumption range of 12% - 16% yearly increase in herd numbers was assumed.

Following that assumption the number of horses presently on the Paradise-Denio planning unit would be closer to 4900 horses.

There is presently no forage allocation to wild horses within the planning units. There is direct competition with livestock for forage thus the rangeland resource is being overutilized.

Management alternatives (i.e., fences, grazing systems) are not applicable to management of wild horses. These types of alternatives limit the wild and free-roaming status of wild horses. They may also create areas of critical environmental concern by forcing wild horses into unsuitable areas.

Public Law 92-195 does not allow relocation of wild horses or burros into areas where they did not exist as of December 15, 1971.

Under ⁴⁴CFR 4750.3, the Bureau of Land Management is authorized to remove wild horses from private lands at the landowners request. These are checkerboard lands within this planning unit that wild horses and burros are utilizing. There have been requests from landowners with checkerboard lands for removal of wild horses from their private lands.

The purpose of this update is to record what actions have been completed and initiated, or need to be initiated, to implement management decisions relating to the 4321 program of the Paradise-Denio MFP-111 (land use plan) document.

A. MFP-111 Decision Wild Horse and Burro 1.]

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -
NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Existing wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria:

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Paradise-Denio Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	
Owyhee-Bullhead	250/0	CRMP Numbers
Jackson Mountains	215/0	Existing Numbers
McGee Mountain	0/41	Existing Numbers
Black Rock Range East	59/0	Existing Numbers

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Owyhee-Bullhead	Little Owyhee	200/0
	Bullhead	50/0
Jackson Mountains	Jackson Mountains	160/0
	Deer Creek	20/0
	Happy Creek	35/0
McGee Mountains	Alder Creek	0/41
Black Rock Range East	Paiute Meadows	59/0

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

43 CFR 4730.3 states:

The biological requirements of wild free-roaming horses and burros will be determined based upon appropriate studies or other available information. The needs for soil and watershed protection, domestic livestock, maintenance of environmental quality, wildlife, and other factors will be considered along with wild free-roaming horse and burro requirements. After determining the optimum number of such horses and burros to be maintained on an area, the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly.

The district does not have adequate supportable data upon which to establish the number of wild horses and burros to be maintained on each herd use area. Wild horses and burros must be considered comparable with other resource values in the development of resource management plans. Livestock, wild horses and burros would be kept at existing numbers as a starting point for monitoring purposes unless the conditions listed in the above decision existed. The monitoring program is being designed to determine what the proper stocking level for livestock, wild horses and burros is for each allotment. Adjustments in the numbers of animals to be grazed on each area will be determined through this monitoring process as outlined in Range Management Decision 1.1.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Nevada Division of State Lands, Carson City, Nevada.
2. Nevada Department of Agriculture, Carson City, Nevada.

A. MFP-III Decision WH&B 1.4

District Manager's Decision - Wild Horse and Burro Program - Checkerboard Herd Use Areas

Remove wild horses and burros from the following checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs) unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner.

<u>Herd Area Name</u>	<u>Present Estimated Population Horses/Burros (as of June 1, 1988)</u>
Eugene Mountains	0/0
Krum Hills	0/0
Slumbering Hills South	5/0
Osgood Mountains	0/0
Hot Springs Mountains	0/0
Lower Paradise Valley	0/0
Bloody Run Mountains	2/0
	<u>7/0</u>

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision has been fully implemented except for unconfirmed reports of five wild horses remaining in the Slumbering Hills Herd Area, (HA), and two in the Bloody Run HA.
2. To implement the decision, 2,665 excess wild horses (no burros) were removed from the HA's.
3. The following HA's are now (June 1, 1988) considered free of all wild horses and burros:

Eugene Mountains
Krum Hills
Slumbering Hills (North and South)
Osgood Mountains
Hot Springs Mountains
Lower Paradise Valley
Bloody Run Mountains

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Although all excess animals have been removed from those HA's listed under B.3., the HA boundary will be retained for possible future management actions - such as relocation of wild horses/burros back to one (or more) of the HA's if an agreement to do so is approved.
2. All HA's will be closely monitored, and if an unacceptable number of either wild horses or burros migrate back into a particular HA, these animals will be removed.

Prepared by:

Dick Wheeler
WH&B Specialist

6-1-88
Date

Concurred:

Harold Smith
Environmental Coordinator

June 88
Date

Approved:

Joett Billings
Paradise-Denio
Area Manager

6-6-88
Date

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The AML's for non-checkerboard Herd Management Areas (HMA's) in the Paradise-Denio Resource Area are 524 wild horses and 41 burros.
2. The decision has been partially implemented. To implement the decision to attain AML's in the above HMA's, 5,104 excess wild horses (no burros) have been removed as of June 1, 1988. This leaves a balance of 297 excess wild horses to be removed to attain AML's. An aerial census needs to be conducted for the McGee Mountain HMA to determine the correct population of burros.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Continue implementing MFP-III 1.1 Decision until AML's have been attained for all HMA's within the non-checkerboard areas.
2. Future plans for removal of excess animals will be based upon the AML of each HMA, unless modified by one or more of the five criteria listed under A.

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6/14/88
Date

Concurred:

Shirley L. Smith
Environmental Coordinator

14 June 88
Date

Approved:

John Bellini
Paradise-Denio
Area Manager

6-20-88
Date